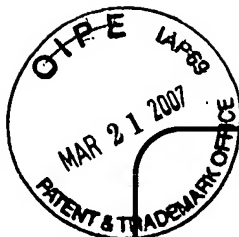


03-22-07

JPW



PTO/SB/21 (07-06)

Approved for use through 09/30/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	10/806,030	
	Filing Date	March 22, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Koji HIGUCHI
	Art Unit	2853
	Examiner Name	Rene Garcia, Jr.
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	9319A-000737

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form 1449 with 4 attached references, and return receipt postcard
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Remarks

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-3213. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name G. Gregory Schivley Bryant E. Wade	Reg. No. 27,382 40,344
Signature			
Date	March 21, 2007		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

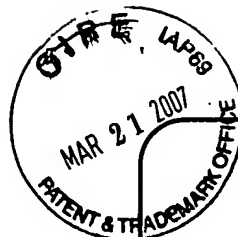
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	G. Gregory Schivley / Bryant E. Wade	Express Mail Label No.	EV 522 877 513 US (3/21/2007)
Signature		Date	March 21, 2007

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

EV 522 877 513 US



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2006

Effective 2/8/2006. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 180

Complete if Known

Application Number 10/806,030
Filing Date March 22, 2004
First Named Inventor Koji HIGUCHI
Examiner Name Rene Garcia, Jr.
Art Unit 2853
Attorney Docket No. 9319A-000737

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money ☐ Other ☐ None
Order

☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit
Account
Number 50-3213

Deposit
Account
Name Epson R & D

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments
☒ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee
to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1011	300	2011	150	Utility filing fee	
1012	200	2012	100	Design filing fee	
1013	200	2013	100	Plant filing fee	
1014	300	2014	150	Reissue filing fee	
1005	200	2005	100	Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1)					(\$) 0

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

			Extra Claims		Fee from below		Fee Paid
Total Claims		-20 **	=	0	X		= 0
Independent Claims		-3 **	=	0	X		= 0
Multiple Dependent							= 0

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	50	2202	25	Claims in excess of 20
1201	200	2201	100	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	360	2203	180	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	200	2204	100	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	50	2205	25	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 0

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	120	2251	60	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	450	2252	225	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	1020	2253	510	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,590	2254	795	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,160	2255	1080	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	500	2401	250	Notice of Appeal	
1402	500	2402	250	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	1000	2403	500	Request for oral hearing	
1452	500	2452	250	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1500	2453	750	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1462	400	1462	400	Petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(f)	
1463	200	1463	200	Petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(g)	
1464	130	1464	130	Petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h)	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	180
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	790	2809	395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	790	2810	395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
1801	790	2801	395	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 180

4. SEARCH/EXAMINATION FEES

1111	500	2111	250	Utility Search Fee	
1112	100	2112	50	Design Search Fee	
1113	300	2113	150	Plant Search Fee	
1114	500	2114	250	Reissue Search Fee	
1311	200	2311	100	Utility Examination Fee	
1312	130	2312	65	Design Examination Fee	
1313	160	2313	80	Plant Examination Fee	
1314	600	2314	300	Reissue Examination Fee	

SUBTOTAL (4) (\$) 0

SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type)	G. Gregory Schivley Bryant E. Woods	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	27,382 40,344	Telephone	248.641.1600
Signature				Date	March 21, 2007

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Application No.: 10/806,030
Filing Date: March 22, 2004
Applicant: Koji HIGUCHI
Group Art Unit: 2853
Examiner: Rene Garcia, Jr.
Title: DROPLET EJECTION APPARATUS
Attorney Docket: 9319A-000737

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed, other than U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications unless required by the Office; (iii) each unpublished U.S. application listed below in Section IV (i.e., including the specification, claims, and any drawing of the application, or that portion of the application which caused it to be listed, including any claims directed to that portion), except for such applications filed on or after June 30, 2003, pursuant to the Waiver of the Copy Requirement in 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (OG Notice dated October 19, 2004); and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

03/26/2007 CNGUYEN2 00000009 503213 10806030

01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

B. ☐ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. ☐ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search report are listed on the attached Form 1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. If the International Search report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g).)

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. ☐ Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. ☒ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ☒ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application. China.

2. ☒ English translations are provided: as indicated on the attached Form HDP-1449.

3. ☒ Other: CN 1241490 corresponds to US 6,220,692; and CN 1103029 corresponds to US 5,563,634.

C. ☐ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. ☒ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does (do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Inventors

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Inventors</u>
10/802,675	03/17/2004	Osamu SHINKAWA
10/807,920	03/24/2004	Osamu SHINKAWA
10/797,595	03/10/2004	Yusuke SAKAGAMI
10/797,594	03/10/2004	Yusuke SAKAGAMI
10/806,031	03/22/2004	Koji HIGUCHI
10/824,335	04/14/2004	Osamu SHINKAWA
10/807,921	03/24/2004	Osamu SHINKAWA

B. ☒ Statement of Common Ownership Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)

Applicants, through their undersigned representative, make the following statement as to common ownership to disqualify the reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art:

Application No. 10/806,030 (the present application) and Application Nos. 10/802,675, 10/807,920, 10/787,595, 10/797,594, 10/806,031, 10/824,335, and 10/807,921 were each, at the time the invention of Application No. 10/806,030 was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Seiko Epson Corporation.

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3. ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4. ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ☒ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ☐ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):**

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ☐ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. **CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e):** (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. ☐ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ☐ some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. **STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d)**

The undersigned hereby states that:

☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above identified fee.

B. ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-3213 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.


If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3213.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-3213.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 21, 2007

By:



G. Gregory Schivley

Reg. No. 27,382

Bryant E. Wade

Reg. No. 40,344

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGs/BEW/pvd



FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Sheet 1 of 3	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
	9319A-000737	10/806,030
	APPLICANT	
	Koji HIGUCHI	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	March 22, 2004	2853

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		4,301,459	11/1981	Isayama, et al.		
2.		4,484,199	11/1984	Watanabe, Masato		
3.		4,768,045	08/1988	Koto, Hanuhiko		
4.		5,371,528	12/1994	Izumida, et al.		
5.		5,563,634	10/8/1996	Fujii, et al.		
6.		5,581,287	12/1996	Baezner, et al.		
7.		5,731,826	03/1998	Hirano, Hirofumi		
8.		5,975,668	11/1999	Fujii, et al.		
9.		5,995,801	11/1999	Katsuta, et al.		
10.		6,010,205	01/2000	Billet, Donald R.		
11.		6,048,045	04/2000	Nohata, et al.		
12.		6,145,966	11/2000	Hotomi, et al.		
13.		6,168,263	01/2001	Nojima, et al.		
14.		6,174,038	01/2001	Nakazawa, et al.		
15.		6,220,692	04/24/2001	Iwaya, et al.		
16.		6,238,112	05/2001	Girones, et al.		
17.		6,322,190	11/2001	Kono, et al.		
18.		6,364,452	04/2002	Noyes, et al.		
19.		6,565,185	05/2003	Endo, Hironari		
20.		6,811,238	11/2004	Shingyohuchi, Mitsuru		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Sheet 2 of 3	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
	9319A-000737	10/806,030
	APPLICANT	
	Koji HIGUCHI	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	March 22, 2004	2853

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
21.		2001/0007460	07/2001	Fujii, et al.		
22.		2002/0021325	02/2002	Koitabashi, et al.		
23.		2002/0027575	03/2002	Bruch, et al.		
24.		2002/0036667	03/2002	Shingyohuchi, Mitsuru		
25.		2002/0130918	09/2002	Hayakawa, et al.		
26.		2002/0144550	10/2002	Nishihara, Yuichi		
27.		2002/0149657	10/2002	Ishinaga, et al.		
28.		2003/0007032	01/2003	Ho, Chien-Hsien		
29.		2003/0043216	03/2003	Usui, et al.		
30.		2003/0146742	08/2003	Nishida, et al.		
31.		2003/0156149	08/2003	Choi, Kyung-chool		
32.		2004/000116	01/2004	Wouters, et al.		
33.		2004/0223027	11/2004	Shinkawa, et al.		
34.		2005/0122360	06/2005	Sakagami, et al.		
35.		2005/0128323	06/2005	Choi, Kwang-Cheol		
36.						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation * Yes No
1.		CN 1103029	5/31/1995	China		X

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Sheet 3 of 3	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL No.
	9319A-000737	10/806,030
	APPLICANT	
	Koji HIGUCHI	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	March 22, 2004	2853

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation *	
						Yes	No
2.		CN 1241490	01/19/2000	China			X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		Patent abstracts of Japan regarding Publication No. 08-309963 published 11/26/1996.
2.		Communication from China Patent Office regarding counterpart application.

*One or more of the English translation documents submitted herewith may be Abstracts only or partial machine created translations from the Japanese Patent Office. As such, the submitter does not necessarily vouch for their accuracy. Additional information may be obtained from the Japanese Patent Office web site at www.jpo.go.jp

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.